

press release



Falkirk Council

05 October 2011

Other Town Centre Updates

A round up of town centre development work in Falkirk, Stenhousemuir and Grangemouth was presented to a meeting of Falkirk Council today (5 October)

Members heard how the £16m redevelopment of Stenhousemuir had led to a more buoyant town centre with the establishment of a major food retailer, the creation of new retail units and new health care and leisure facilities opened.

Public feedback indicated that there has been a massive increase in town centre usage over the past ten years with 41% of Stenhousemuir households and 62% of Larbert households now regularly using Stenhousemuir town centre for their main food shopping. This compares with 18% (Stenhousemuir) and 11% (Larbert) in 1998.

Falkirk town centre is continuing to capitalise on its popularity as a successful town centre despite the economic downturn and has seen the delivery of a £1.2m scheme of improvements centred around Falkirk Old & St Modan's churchyard and provision of quality visitor and shopping information signage. Both these projects reflected longstanding aspirations for the town by the retailing and local communities.

Cllr Craig Martin, Leader of Falkirk Council said: 'We are confident that the success shown in the redevelopment of Stenhousemuir can be repeated elsewhere once we are in a stronger economic environment.'

'And, despite the recession, we are looking longer term at Grangemouth's regeneration. We have been slightly constrained by legislation however we are working on a development plan and hopefully we can see some real progress soon.'

The redevelopment of Grangemouth town centre involves £9.6m worth of Council assets. It continues to move forward with the regeneration proposals marketed on a Europe wide basis. The timescales for appointment of a developer by September 2012 for the regeneration of Grangemouth town centre were recently conveyed at a meeting of town centre retailers.

'Falkirk still thrives as a retail centre and the recent improvement works to the historic churchyard area as well as the town centre signage will prove popular with residents and visitors alike.'

Further funding bids are being planned centred around public realm improvement works and are expected to be submitted in November 2011.

Working with Falkirk Town Centre Management Ltd., the Falkirk Business Improvement District (BID) was re-elected for a further five years and will continue to deliver many high profile projects. The BID was one of the first in Scotland and has helped secure national recognition for its efforts to promote the centre.

- Falkirk Council (05/10/2011)

